

CUSTOMS, COURTESIES, AND TRADITIONS



LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Recognize and be able to discuss:

Army professionals:

- Integrate Army Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions within their organizations to develop esprit de corps
- Incorporate Army history into formal and informal activities to inspire a sense of shared organizational and Army heritage in their members
- Act as stewards by continuing to honor Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions that reflect and strengthen the profession's Essential Characteristics.

Esprit de Corps

Army professionals develop esprit de corps:

- Through disciplined striving for excellence as a group, surpassing expectations in achieving
- By recognizing expertise and individual discipline and excellence and its place in the profession through committed use of custom, courtesy,



Esprit de Corps:
~~Is the winning spirit within the Army~~
profession, embedded in the **culture**,
sustained by traditions and customs,
fostering cohesive and confident units
with the courage to persevere, bonded
together by a mutual trust, shared
understanding, and commitment to
the **Army Ethic**. – ADRP 1

Is the respect (for our history and
tradition) and the commitment (to the
highest standards of individual and
collective excellence) imbued in Army

Army Culture:

Consists of the shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterize the larger institution over time. It is deeply rooted in long-held beliefs and customs. Leaders use the culture to let members of the organization know they are part of something bigger than just themselves, that they have responsibilities to those who have gone before and those who will come after.

The Army Ethic

Is the evolving set of laws, values and beliefs, deeply embedded within the core of the profession's **culture** and practiced by its members to motivate and guide the conduct of individual members bound together in common moral purpose.

A **Custom** is an established practice. It includes positive actions – things you do, and taboos – things you avoid. The customs of the Army are its common law



Courtesy among Army professionals is vital to maintain discipline. Military courtesy means good manners and politeness in dealing with other people; it provides a basis for developing good human relations, for building relationships. Military courtesy was developed in a military atmosphere and



Tradition is a customary pattern of thought, expressed in the things we do and say, and in the uniform we wear. It is information, beliefs, and customs handed down by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another. Our traditions are really the ‘Army Way,’ and it gives an Army



professional a feeling of pride to understand just why we do things the way we do.

Army Civilians & Army Culture

While not uniformed, DA Civilians are Army professionals and share in the Army culture, members of the Army

Team. For example, DA Civilians offer courtesy to the flag, with hand over heart, at reveille, retreat, or when the colors pass.

- Army professionals in vehicles hearing reveille and retreat stop to pay respect to the flag.
- Army professionals are courteous in interaction; addressing a Soldier by rank alone is often considered rude.
- While uniformed professionals salute, it is customary and professional for DA Civilians to render an appropriate greeting.

Custom



The Twilight Tattoo is a time honored military tradition that dates back to the British Army 300 years ago when bugle calls were designed to notify the troops to return to the barracks from the local towns. The familiar tune of ‘Tattoo’ signaled tavern owners to ‘doe den tap toe’ or ‘turn off the taps.’ The troops knew the call mean

Parade & Review

“The exterior splendor, the regularity of movements, the adroitness and at the same time firmness of the mass - all this gives the individual Soldier the safe and calming conviction that nothing can



**regime
der G**



Ceremony

“Some of the old soldiers out there who have perhaps grown a bit cynical and too sophisticated for ceremonies think you have the option to decline a ceremony for yourself. ‘Sir, just give the orders and I’ll sew on my stripes tonight in the privacy of my home,’ you might say; or “ ‘Sir, don’t go to the

Does that sound familiar? Stop a minute to consider how selfish you are as a leader. A military crest is not yours even if you are the sole reason for your efficiency. It belongs to all the soldiers. Don't miss any opportunity to stop and recognize well-deserving soldiers, especially the opportunity to reward young soldiers receiving their first awards or advancements, a simple tradition of our Army packed with a powerful stimulus for soldiers."



Soldiers draw strength from knowing they are part of long-standing tradition. Many of the Army's everyday customs and traditions remind Soldiers they are the latest addition to a long line of Soldiers – they belong to something greater than themselves. Leaders uphold these traditions by purposefully including the history of unit crests, awards, decorations and badges in professional



Ceremony & Tradition



The Army cherishes its past, especially its combat history, and nourishes its institutional memory through ceremony and custom. Our formations preserve their unit histories and proudly display them in unit crests, unit patches, and regimental mottoes. Such traditions reinforce esprit de corps and the distinctiveness of the profession. Our history of past battles bonds and sustains units and soldiers. History reminds soldiers of who they are, of the cause they serve, and of their ties to soldiers who have gone before them. An understanding of what has happened in the past

Drill

Although the procedures taught in drill today are not normally employed on the battlefield, the objectives accomplished by drill - professionalism, teamwork, confidence, pride, alertness, attention to detail, esprit de corps, and discipline - are just as important in the modern army as they were in the past.



“If men are to give their best in war they must be united. Discipline seeks through drill to instill into all ranks this sense of unity, be requiring them to obey orders as one man. A Ceremonial parade, moreover, provides an occasion for men to express pride in their performance, pride in the Regiment or Corps and pride in the



is.”

Sir I



Stewardship:

Is the group of strategies, policies, principles, and beliefs that pertain to the purposeful management and sustainment of the resources, expertise, and time-honored traditions and customs that make up the profession.

- AD RP 6-22

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